

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-3, 5-7, and 10-23 as being directed to non-elected subject matter or being made redundant by way of the amendments below.

Please amend claims 4 and 8 as follows:

- B1*
4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1;
 - (c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; and
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence that is completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-(c).
- Mb C1*

- B2 Mb 2*
8. (Amended) A nucleic acid vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

Please add the following new claims 24-29:

M(3) 24. A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide.

B3 8 25. An isolated polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

B3 9 26. An isolated polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

3 27. The vector of claim 8, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.

4 28. The vector of claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2 may be expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

5 29. The vector of claim 27, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence. --

Versi n of Amended Claims With Markings t Show Changes Made:

4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the [an] amino acid sequence of [shown in] SEQ ID NO:2;

[(b)] a nucleotide sequence that encodes of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;

(c) a nucleotide sequence that encodes an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;

(d) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids; and]

(b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; and

(d) [(e)] a nucleotide sequence that is [the complement of] completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-[(d)][(c)].

8. (Amended) A nucleic acid vector comprising the [a] nucleic acid molecule of claim [5] 4.